

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF S.B. 284: AN ACT INCREASING THE AGE FROM EIGHT TO EIGHTEEN YEARS FOR AN INCOME-ELIGIBLE PERSON TO OBTAIN MEDICAL ASSISTANCE REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS.

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE OF CT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Dear members of the Connecticut Human Services Committee:

Good afternoon, my name is Patricia Rosas and I live in Hartford. I am a member of the New Britain Manos Unidas (Hands United) group. I am in favor of S.B. 284: AN ACT INCREASING THE AGE FROM EIGHT TO EIGHTEEN YEARS FOR AN INCOME-ELIGIBLE PERSON TO OBTAIN MEDICAL ASSISTANCE REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS because it would be a step forward to get access to HUSKY for all our immigrant community, regardless of age.

I have been in this country since 1990 and in some cases I have had very bad experiences for not having health insurance. The most complicated one was in 2019. I had been suffering from pain for many years, which got worse and worse as time went by until I could not stand it anymore. I sought help at Malta House, a friend recommended it and that's when the nightmare began. I was sent to St. Francis for tests. When I went back to Malta House for the results, the doctor told me that I had a gall stone and that there was something else but that I had to see a specialist. That was impossible for me at that time because without medical insurance they would not see me.

So more months passed until - thanks to my friends and the community - after having a very bad time, I was able to be operated on because besides the stone, I also had cancer in my right kidney. They had to remove my gallbladder and kidney. I would like to describe step by step all the inconveniences that we immigrants go through because we do not have medical insurance but it would be very long. I just hope you will please touch your hearts and put yourselves in our shoes. What would you do if you did not have the privilege of having access to health care?

I, like many immigrants, contribute to this country that has become our second home. We are essential workers therefore we have the right to live a better life.

In my case I have to be checked for 5 years, every year to make sure everything is ok and without health insurance that is almost impossible. It is very stressful to live like this.

That is why we need your support of S.B. 284: AN ACT INCREASING THE AGE FROM EIGHT TO EIGHTEEN YEARS FOR AN INCOME-ELIGIBLE PERSON TO OBTAIN MEDICAL ASSISTANCE REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS to continue advancing our right to health care.

Thank you for your time,
Patricia Rosa